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Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council

Twenty-fifth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/60/585).

2. The Committee recalls that the General Assembly in its resolution 59/278 of 23 December 2004 on the proposed programme budget outline for 2006-2007, decided to include a provision of $356 million for special political missions related to peace and security expected to be approved or extended in the course of the biennium 2006-2007 (see also A/59/600, paras. 7 and 10-11).

3. The report of the Secretary-General presents the estimated resource requirements for 26 special political missions listed in the report (A/60/585, table 1, section I). These include 25 political offices, peacebuilding missions and sanctions panels authorized by the Security Council and one political mission (Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Myanmar) authorized by the General Assembly. As regards the latter, the Advisory Committee notes that the requirements are included in the report, as requested by the Committee (see A/57/7/Add.17, para. 5), although the related proposed requirements are under separate consideration by the General Assembly, as it examines the pertinent statement of programme budget implications (see A/C.5/60/17 and the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/60/7/Add.17)). Some of the missions have had their mandates extended into the next biennium or are expected to be extended, as indicated therein. The Committee further notes that six missions are discontinued for 2006, as they have been transformed into peacekeeping missions (United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire, United Nations Office in Burundi, United Nations Advance Mission in the Sudan) or have reached completion (United Nations Observer Mission in Bougainville, United

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Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala, Central American peace process (see table 1, section II).

4. The total estimated requirements for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2006, as shown in tables 1 and 2 of the Secretary-General's report, amount to $280,803,200. The Committee notes that the resources proposed cover funding until 31 December 2006 for all political missions except two, namely, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and the United Nations Office in Timor-Leste (UNOTIL), whose budgets are proposed for 3 months and 4.75 months, respectively, as it is anticipated that the mandate of UNAMA will change substantially in March 2006 and that UNOTIL will not be extended after the completion of its current mandate. Accordingly, the General Assembly is requested to approve an amount of $280,803,200 against the provision for special political missions, while noting that the balance of resources remaining for special political missions in the initial provision of $355,949,300 amounts to $75,146,100; any further requirements arising for special political missions in the course of the biennium 2006-2007 would be subject to the provisions of Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986.

5. **The Advisory Committee expresses its concern at the submission of a proposal of such magnitude so close to the end of the year. The Committee reiterates the need for this report to be submitted earlier, to allow for a more in-depth consideration of the proposals. The Committee does not wish to restrict the ability of the Secretary-General to react in a timely manner with regard to the missions referred to in his report. However, there are a number of aspects of this matter that require a more detailed review by the Committee.**

6. **In view of the above, the Advisory Committee recommends that this matter be deferred pending a detailed review by the Committee of the programme and financial aspects of the proposals in February 2006 and subsequent action by the General Assembly. In the meantime, the Committee recommends approval of a charge of $100,000,000 against the provision for special political missions under section 3 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007. This should be sufficient to allow the continued functioning of the missions until the end of April 2006. Furthermore, the Committee recommends that no action be taken to fill additional posts or implement reclassifications, with the exception of staff required to meet the most urgent needs of the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone, which was established by the Security Council in resolution 1620 (2005) to assist the Government after the withdrawal of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone at the end of 2005. However, this exception in no way implies consideration or approval of the total number of posts or positions or their grades proposed for this new mission.**

7. **Bearing in mind its comments in the paragraphs above, and pending its in-depth consideration of the matter in February 2006, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of a charge of $100,000,000 for the period from 1 January to 30 April 2006 for the 26 missions dealt with in the report of the Secretary-General against the provision for special political missions requested under section 3 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007.**